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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 /103 W
----------099654 121514Z /46
P 121441Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0412
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

UNCLAS DUBLIN 01209

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, EI, UK
SUBJECT: LYNCH-CALLAGHAN MEETING AT COPENHAGEN

REF: DUBLIN 855

1 ALL RESIDENT AMBASSADORS IN DUBLIN WERE SUMMONED APRIL 11 TO A BRIEFING ON THE MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER (TAOISEACH) JACK LYNCH AND UK PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN AT COPENHAGEN ON APRIL 8. THE AMBASSADORIAL MEETING WAS SIMILAR TO THE ONE CALLED ON MARCH 9 TO COUNTE "ALLEGATIONS" BY NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY MASON, BUT ITS TONE WAS DIRECTLY OPPOSITE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY DONLON HAD ONLY GOOD THINGS TO SAY ABOUT CALLAGHAN AND HMG AT THIS BRIEFING.

2. DONLON SAID THE MEETING WAS "FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL"; IT WAS "FORWARD LOOKING" AND DID NOT DWELL ON RECENT PAST EVENTS. THUS, INSOFAR AS THE GOI WAS CONCERNED, ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS HAD RETURNED TO THE SATISFACTORY CONDITION EXISTING AFTER THE LAST LYNCH-CALLAGHAN BILATERAL IN SEPTEMBER 1977. IT WAS AGREED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER O'KENNEDY AND NORTHERN IRELAND MINISTER MASON WOULD GET
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TOGETHER AROUND MID-MAY AND CONDUCT MORE THOROUGH DISCUS-SIONS UNDER THREE HEADINGS: 1) POLITICAL, 2) SECURITY AND 3) ECONOMIC. IN THE LATTER TWO AREAS DONLON SAID THAT CALLAGHAN AND LYNCH HAD NO DISAGREEMENTS. BOTH GOVERN-MENTS ARE SATISFIED THAT SECURITY COOPERATION IS AS GOOD AS IT COULD BE. THE "EXPERTS" ARE STILL WORKING ON CROSS-BORDER ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND THEIR TALKS ARE PROCEEDING

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SATISFACTORILY.

3. DONLON SAID THAT THE ONLY DISAGREEMENT CAME IN DISCUSSING THE ULTIMATE POLITICAL SOLUTION. LYNCH REITERATED HIS POSITION THAT THE ONLY BASIS FOR PERMANENT PEACE AND STABILITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD BE THE COMING TOGETHER OF THE PEOPLE OF ALL OF IRELAND UNDER AN AGREED POLITICAL STRUCTURE. CALLAGHAN, DONLON SAID, DID NOT ACCEPT THIS OBJECTIVE. CALLAGHAN SAID THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT STILL HAS "ON THE TABLE" A PROPOSAL FOR LIMITED DEVOLUTION. LYNCH SAID HE COULD ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSAL INSOFAR AS IT INCLUDES POWER SHARING, WHICH HE UNDERSTANDS IS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL. DONLON THEN INTERJECTED PARENTHETICALLY THAT THESE PROPOSALS WERE AS DEAD AS A DODO, A FACT UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED, AND IN HIS OPINION HMG REALLY HAD NO POLITICAL PROPOSALS NOR PROGRAM IN PROSPECT AND WOULD NOT HAVE, IN HIS OPINION, UNTIL AFTER THE UPCOMING ELECTION IN THE UK.

4. WE HAVE OBTAINED A TRANSCRIPT OF LYNCH'S RADIO INTERVIEW GIVEN SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN TO DUBLIN ON APRIL 10. IT IS ACTUALLY MORE INFORMATIVE THAN THE DONLON PRESENTATION, WHICH WAS EXTREMELY CAREFUL AND WAS BASED UPON AN "AGREED BASIS FOR BRIEFING" WORKED OUT AT COPENHAGEN. WE WILL POUCH THE TRANSCRIPT TO ADDRESSEES. RENDAHL

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